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and faithful in his delineation of natural scenery, works of art, and human manners and character. On a few subjects he contradicts our previous impressions. He places the Chinese higher and the Hindoos lower on the scale of humanity than we were prepared to find them. He takes what we cannot but fear is too low an estimate of the evils resulting from the opium-trade and opium-smoking. But even on this last subject, his evidently pure and high moral standard attaches weight to his judgment, though with us it does not countervail the abundant opposing testimony that has been offered by disinterested witnesses. On comparing some of his statements with those of Mr. Fletcher, in his work on Brazil, we are inclined to believe that his sojourn at Rio de Janeiro was too brief for the perfect accuracy of information, the evidences of which are patent in every other part of the volume. But, with these slight abatements, if they are to be made, it is many months since so well digested, instructive, and interesting a record of travel has come under our cognizance.

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29.—*The Law of Freedom and Bondage in the United States.* By  
JOHN CODMAN HURD, Counsellor at Law. In 2 vols. Vol. I.  
Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1858. 8vo. pp. 617.

MR. HURD is establishing by this work his claim to be regarded as among the most sound, able, and learned of the legal writers of his country and age. He commences with the elementary principles of jurisprudence, of natural and positive, municipal and international law, and then traces, on fundamental principles, the effect of international law on the personal conditions of freedom and bondage. He then follows out in detail the effect in this regard of the English law on the American colonies, and the legal history of chattel slavery under the Roman law, in Christianized Europe, in the colonial possessions of England, and under the Constitution of the United States. By these preliminary investigations, which occupy more than half of the first volume, he establishes a basis for the consideration of the present legal attitude of slavery in the States and Territories of our Union, under the law and jurisdiction of the general government, and proposes in the remaining volume to pass in review the history and condition of municipal law as regards slavery in the several States. The work is strictly legal, and excludes all ethical and political discussion. The mass of authorities quoted, and the evidences of patient labor and profound thought on every page, assimilate the work to those masterpieces of German scholarship, which are the achievement of a lifetime and the

wonder of an age. At the same time, there is a lucidness of arrangement and a precision of method, which happily distinguish it from the shapeless masses of erudition that have been so often issued from the German press. Mr. Hurd's style is not always as transparent as his method, and a sentence sometimes needs a second reading to be thoroughly understood; but his thought is always clear, and the labor bestowed in enucleating it is never wasted.

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- 30.—*The History of the United States, from their Colonization to the End of the Twenty-Sixth Congress, in 1841.* By GEORGE TUCKER.  
In 4 vols. Philadelphia: J. Lippincott & Co. 1856—1858. 8vo.  
pp. 670, 518, 526, 507.

MR. TUCKER gives, in a single chapter of a hundred pages, a *résumé* of the history of the Colonies prior to the Declaration of Independence, and the rest of the work is devoted to the Confederation and the United States. It is a political and national history, rather than a comprehensive narrative of important events, and the author's evident aim is to present from the Southern point of view such questions and subjects as have a sectional bearing, and have furnished the grounds of sectional controversy. Though, in the portions of the work which we have found time to read, we often dissent from him, we render our cordial testimony to his candor, generosity, and patriotism. He occupies the ground, which he has an undoubted right to occupy, of a friend of Southern institutions, with the full recognition, not only of the right of dissent, but of the *prima facie* reasons for it, on the part of those whose social environments and political training have been widely different from his own. He is a friend of the Union, and an advocate for mutual concessions, and believes that the slave question will, in process of time, become more manageable, by the proportionate diminution of the colored race, and by emigration to Africa, especially if it should receive efficient aid from the State and General governments. We regret that we can now afford so little space to a work so able, and hope at some future time to recur to it for the more thorough examination of the views which it maintains, and the policy which it defends. Meanwhile we commend it to our Northern readers, as adapted to make them, not less strenuous advocates of freedom, but more tolerant of opinions which must be understood and appreciated before they can be successfully encountered, on the floor of Congress or from the press. The *argumentum ad invidiam* has already been urged to a dangerous extremity; freedom needs far different weapons and champions.